

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~An earring for disengageable attachment to a user ear lobe that defines a first angle of separation ( $\alpha$ ) with respect to a sagittal plane of the user and which includes a hole defined through the ear lobe, said earring comprising:~~

~~a suspendable decorative ring decorative ring suspendable from the user ear lobe, said decorative ring defining a mean plane of the ring and having a first end portion; and~~

~~an attachment portion depending from said first end portion of the decorative ring for captive insertion through the user ear lobe hole, said attachment portion and comprising a unitary member having a first elongated substantially rectilinear portion extending at the a first angle ( $\alpha$ ) relative to said first end portion of the decorative ring, and a second elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said first elongated portion to form an angular return bend that defines a second angle ( $\beta$ ) between said first and second elongated portions of said unitary member, and a third elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said second elongated portion to form a second angular bend that defines a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) between said second and third elongated portions of the unitary member, said third angle ( $\gamma$ ) being selected so that said third elongated portion extends in a plane substantially parallel to said mean plane of the decorative ring, wherein said first elongated portion extends in a direction out of the mean plane of the ring so that, when the attachment portion unitary member is inserted through the ear lobe hole to suspend the decorative ring from the user ear lobe,~~

~~said first elongated portion extends captively through the ear lobe hole such that the decorative ring mean plane lies substantially parallel to the user sagittal plane and said second elongated portion extends externally of the ear lobe to maintain the earring in selectively disengageable captive attachment to the user ear lobe.~~

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is approximately 90°.

18. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein ~~said unitary member further comprises a third elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said second elongated portion to form a second angular bend that defines a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) between said second and third elongated portions of the unitary member,~~ said second and third angles being selected so that a sum of said first, second and third angles is approximately 480 360°.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 14,  
~~wherein said unitary member further comprises a third elongated substantially rectilinear~~  
~~portion connected to said second elongated portion to form a second angular bend that~~  
~~defines a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) between said second and third elongated portions of the unitary~~  
member, said third angle ( $\gamma$ ) being selected so that said third elongated portion lies  
substantially in said mean plane of the decorative ring.

22. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 14,  
wherein said first angle ( $\alpha$ ) is in the range of approximately 90° to 150°.

23. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 14,  
wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is in the range of approximately 30° to 100°.

24. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 18,  
wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is in the range of approximately 30° to 100°.

25. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 14,  
wherein said decorative ring further comprises a second end portion and a fastening  
means for detachable engagement with a free end of said unitary member remote from  
said decorative ring first end portion to thereby prevent unintended disengagement of  
the earring from the user ear lobe.

26. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 18, wherein said decorative ring further comprises a second end portion and a fastening means for detachable engagement with said third portion of the unitary member to thereby prevent unintended disengagement of the earring from the user ear lobe.

27. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 21, wherein said decorative ring further comprises a second end portion and a fastening means for detachable engagement with said third portion of the unitary member to thereby prevent unintended disengagement of the earring from the user ear lobe.

28. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 25, wherein said fastening means comprises a substantially hollow portion defined at said second end portion of the decorative ring for receiving in said hollow portion the free end of said unitary member.

29. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 26, wherein said fastening means comprises a substantially hollow portion defined at said second end portion of the decorative ring for receiving in said hollow portion ~~the~~ a free end of said unitary member.

30. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 27, wherein said fastening means comprises a substantially hollow portion defined at said

second end portion of the decorative ring for receiving in said hollow portion ~~the~~ a free end of said unitary member.

31. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein said first angle ( $\alpha$ ) is approximately  $135^\circ$ .

32. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 31, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is approximately  $90^\circ$ .

33. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein the earring further comprises a hinge that connects the unitary member to the first end portion of the decorative ring.

34. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 33, wherein said hinge is configured for enabling pivoted rotation of the unitary member relative to the decorative ring about an axis defined transverse to the mean plane of the decorative ring.

35. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 14, wherein a portion of said unitary member ~~lies in~~ defines a plane substantially transverse to the mean plane of the decorative ring.

36. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 18,  
wherein a portion of said unitary member ~~lies in~~ defines a plane substantially transverse  
to the mean plane of the decorative ring.

37. (Currently amended ) An earring ~~for disengageable attachment to a~~  
~~user ear lobe that defines a first angle of separation ( $\alpha$ ) with respect to a sagittal plane~~  
~~of the user and which includes a hole defined through the ear lobe, said earring~~  
comprising:

a suspendable decorative part ~~suspendable from the user ear lobe, said~~  
decorative part defining a plane of suspension of the decorative part ~~along which the~~  
~~decorative part is adapted to be suspended from the user ear lobe; and~~

an attachment portion depending from said decorative part ~~for captive insertion~~  
~~through the user ear lobe hole, said attachment portion~~ comprising a unitary member  
having a first elongated substantially rectilinear portion extending at a ~~the~~ first angle ( $\alpha$ )  
relative to said suspension plane of the decorative part, ~~and~~ a second elongated  
substantially rectilinear portion connected to said first elongated portion to form an  
angular return bend that defines a second angle ( $\beta$ ) between said first and second  
elongated portions of said unitary member, and a third elongated substantially  
rectilinear portion connected to said second elongated portion to form a second angular  
bend that defines a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) between said second and third elongated portions of  
the unitary member, said third angle ( $\gamma$ ) being selected so that said third elongated  
portion extends in a plane substantially parallel to said suspension plane of the  
decorative part ~~so that, when the attachment portion unitary member is inserted through~~

~~the ear lobe hole to suspend the decorative part from the user ear lobe, said first elongated portion extends captively through the ear lobe hole such that the decorative part suspension plane lies substantially parallel to the user sagittal plane and said second elongated portion extends externally of the ear lobe to maintain the earring in selectively disengageable captive attachment to the user ear lobe.~~

38. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said first elongated portion extends in a direction out of the suspension plane of the decorative part ring.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is approximately 90°.

41. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said unitary member further comprises a third elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said second elongated portion to form a second angular bend that defines a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) between said second and third elongated portions of the unitary member, said second and third angles being selected so that a sum of said first, second and third angles is approximately ~~480~~ 360°.

42. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 39, wherein said unitary member further comprises a third elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said second elongated portion to form a second angular bend that defines a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) between said second and third elongated portions of the unitary member, said third angle ( $\gamma$ ) being selected so that a sum of said first, second and third angles is approximately ~~180~~ 360°.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 37, ~~wherein said unitary member further comprises a third elongated substantially rectilinear portion connected to said second elongated portion to form a second angular bend that defines a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) between said second and third elongated portions of the unitary member, said third angle ( $\gamma$ ) being selected so that said third elongated portion lies~~ substantially in said suspension plane of the decorative part.

45. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said first angle ( $\alpha$ ) is in the range of approximately 90° to 150°.

46. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is in the range of approximately 30° to 100°.



47. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 41, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is in the range of approximately 30° to 100°.

48. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein said first angle ( $\alpha$ ) is approximately 135°.

49. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 48, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is approximately 90°.

50. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein the earring further comprises a hinge that connects the unitary member to the ~~first end portion of the~~ decorative part.

51. (Previously presented) An earring in accordance with claim 50, wherein said hinge is configured for enabling pivoted rotation of the unitary member relative to the decorative part about an axis defined transverse to the suspension plane of the decorative part.

52. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 37, wherein a portion of said unitary member ~~lies in~~ defines a plane substantially transverse to the suspension plane of the decorative part.

53. (Currently amended) An earring in accordance with claim 41, wherein a portion of said unitary member ~~lies in~~ defines a plane substantially transverse to the suspension plane of the decorative part.

Please add the following new claims 54-58:

54. (New) An earring comprising:  
a suspendable decorative part defining a plane of suspension, and  
an attachment portion depending from said decorative part and including:  
a first elongated substantially rectilinear portion extending at a first angle ( $\alpha$ ) from the plane of suspension and being constructed, sized, and arranged to be passable through a hole in an ear, and  
a second elongated substantially rectilinear portion extending from said first elongated portion at a second angle ( $\beta$ ) back toward the decorative part at a third angle ( $\gamma$ ) with respect to the plane of suspension, and being constructed, sized, and arranged to abut against the ear.

55. (New) The earring in accordance with claim 54, wherein said first angle ( $\alpha$ ) is in the range of approximately 90° to 150°.

56. (New) The earring in accordance with claim 54 wherein said first angle ( $\alpha$ ) is approximately 135°.

57. (New) The earring in accordance with claim 54, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is in the range of approximately 30° and 100°.

58. (New) The earring in accordance with claim 54, wherein said second angle ( $\beta$ ) is approximately 135°.